

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicants would like to thank the examiner for the careful consideration given the present application. By the present amendment, claims 1-5 and 7-20 remain in the application while claim 19 is amended. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 101

Claims 19 and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 as not falling within one of the four statutory categories of invention. Claim 19 has been amended to be tied to a particular machine or apparatus per the examiner's comments. Thus, it is respectfully requested that the rejection of claims 19 and 20 be withdrawn.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 7-10, 12, and 17-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 6,473,523 by Newman *et al.*, hereinafter "Newman", and further in view U.S. Pub. No. 2002/0051575 by Myers *et al.*, hereinafter "Myers". The rejection is respectfully traversed for at least the following reasons.

Independent claim 1, in part, explicitly requires "a cursor information output unit, which outputs cursor position information showing a position of a character frame, wherein the character frame includes vertical marks and horizontal lines to be used for separating each of the individual characters of the plurality of characters in each character image". Claim 1 further requires "a display that simultaneously displays a cursor, which includes the character frame, with the continuous still image at the time of capturing the continuous still image".

Newman fails to teach or suggest the above-mentioned limitations. It is noted that the examiner reads the "viewfinder" (4) and the "cursor crosshairs" (90 and 92) in Newman (Fig. 13) as the "character frame" in claim 1. However, claim 1 explicitly requires that the character

frame is used for “separating each of the individual characters of the plurality of characters in each character image”. By contrast, neither the viewfinder nor the cursor crosshairs in Newman is used for separating each of the individual characters as set forth in claim 1. The viewfinder is used for displaying the whole character image (see col. 3, lines 20-26) but not for separating the individual character. The cursor crosshair is used for providing the coordinates of the whole character image (see col. 5, lines 6-13) but not for separating the individual character either. In addition, the passage in Newman (col. 6, lines 10-15) cited by the examiner in the Response to Amendment and Arguments merely discloses an OCR application for locating positions of margins and bounding boxes of the text objects in the image, but does not teach or suggest that the viewfinder or the cursor crosshair in Newman is for “separating each of the individual characters of the plurality of characters in each character image” as required by claim 1.

Myers also fails to disclose the above-mentioned limitations. It is noted that the examiner cites Fig. 11 of Myers in the Response to Amendment and Arguments as evidence of teaching the “character frame” in claim 1. According to Myer, Fig. 11 merely shows the test image with recognition results overlaid on the normalized image after the rectification and OCR process (see [0087]). Therefore, even if the examiner considers Fig. 11 as having the character frame, the character frame in Fig. 11 is not displayed at the time of capturing the continuous still image required by claim 1, but is after the rectification and OCR process.

In view of the differences between the claimed subject matter and the cited references, applicants respectfully submit that claim 1 is allowable over the references, and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Regarding independent claims 5 and 19, similar to the explanation above with respect to the patentability of claim 1, both Newman and Myers fail to teach or suggest all limitations as

required in claims 5 and 19. Therefore, applicants respectfully submit that independent claims 5 and 19 are allowable over the references, and withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested.

Claims 2, 4, 7-10, 12, 17, 18, and 20 depend from any one of independent claim 1, 5, or 19 and are, therefore, allowable for at least the reasons provided in support of the allowability of claims 1, 5, and 19.

Claims 3 and 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the combination of Newman and Myers, and further in view of U.S. Patent Pub. 2003/0169923 by Butterworth. Claims 3 and 16 depend from either independent claim 1 or 5 and are, therefore, allowable for at least the reasons provided in support of the allowability of claims 1 and 5.

Claims 11, 13, and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable the combination of Newman and Myers, and further in view of U.S. Patent Pub. 2002/0131636 by Hou. Claims 11, 13, and 14 depend from independent claim 5 and are, therefore, allowable for at least the reasons provided in support of the allowability of claim 5.

Claim 15 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable the combination of Newman and Myers, and further in view of U.S. Patent 7,188,307 by Ohsawa. Claim 15 depends from independent claim 5 and is, therefore, allowable for at least the reasons provided in support of the allowability of claim 5.

The present amendment after final rejection is made without adding any new limitation or changing the scope of the claims. Therefore, the amendment should be entered under 37 CFR § 1.116.

In consideration of the foregoing analysis, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in a condition for allowance and notice to that effect is hereby requested. If it is

determined that the application is not in a condition for allowance, the examiner is invited to initiate a telephone interview with the undersigned attorney to expedite prosecution of the present application.

If there are any additional fees resulting from this communication, please charge same to our Deposit Account No. 16-0820, our Order No.: NGB-37577.

Respectfully submitted,
PEARNE & GORDON, LLP

By: /Aaron A. Fishman/
Aaron A. Fishman, Reg. No. 35878

1801 East 9th Street
Suite 1200
Cleveland, Ohio 44114-3108
(216) 579-1700

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